▲ザファルの過去を知る、ラドック

登場人物

セスタス：ローマ帝国の最下層階級の少年拳奴。生き延びるために日々の闘いを余儀なくされたが、奴隷闘士養成所の崩壊に伴い、一度は皇帝・ネロに身を買われた。現在は皇帝の元からドリスコ拳闘団に買われ、地方巡業に出発した。

ザファル：ヌミディア出身の拳奴。セスタスに拳闘の才能を見い出し、師として拳の技を教え込む。現在、ドリスコ拳闘団に訓練士として所属。

ドリスコ：ドリスコ拳闘団団長。抜け目ない商人。セスタスを５万セステルティウスで購入したと公言。

ラドック：ドリスコ拳闘団ナンバー１の拳闘士。豊かな才能と経験をもつ人物。

エルナンド：ドリスコ拳闘団の少年拳奴。ザファルの元で訓練中。長身。

ペドロ：ドリスコ拳闘団の少年拳奴。ザファルの元で訓練中。ひねくれ者。

ゲティ：ドリスコ拳闘団の少年拳奴。ザファルの元で訓練中。肥満体。

JETS COMICS

拳闘暗黒伝CESTVS セスタス vol.6

WAZARAI SHIZUYA

技来静也

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拳闘暗黒伝セスタス◆全⑮巻

世界帝国となったローマを舞台に、拳奴（けんど）・セスタスの成長を通して自由を勝ち取る大切さを語るボクシング・アクション!!

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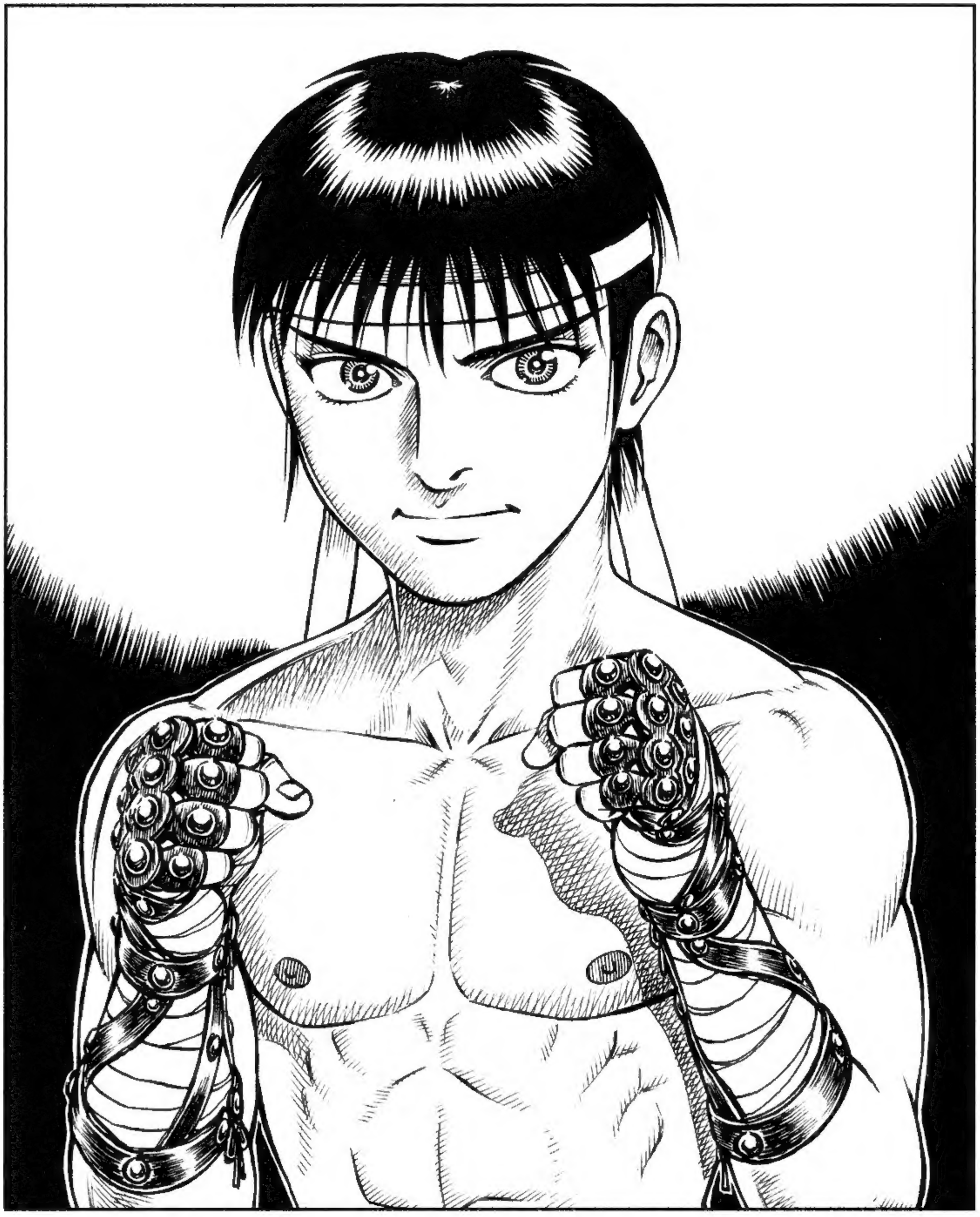

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JETS COMICS

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

THESE STONE ROADS WOULD WEATHER 1,000 YEARS OF WIND AND SNOW.

THE RENOWNED APPIAN WAY OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE WAS THE FIRST FULLY PAVED HIGHWAY.

CHAPTER XLI: THE SLAVE HIGHWAY

THE QUEEN OF LONG ROADS, SHE WOULD SIT SILENT ALL THE WHILE OBSERVING THE EMPIRE'S UPS AND DOWNS.

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION LET US FIRST COVER ONE OF THE BLOODY TALES WHICH WOULD ENGRAVE ITSELF UPON HER STONES.

IN 73 BC THERE WAS A MAN WHO ROSE THE BANNER OF REVOLUTION AGAINST THE ROMAN REPUBLIC.

HIS NAME WAS SPARTACUS, AND HE WAS A GLADIATOR OF THRACIAN ORIGIN.

ALONGSIDE 70 COMPANIONS OF HIS HE LIBERATED FIELD WORKERS AND ROSE UP IN REBELLION.

THE SLAVE ARMY WOULD EVENTUALLY TOP 70,000 MEMBERS. WITH GREAT MOMENTUM THEY CUT ACROSS THE ITALIAN PENNINSULA, DEFEATING ARMY AFTER ARMY SENT BY THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT.

THIS MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A MOST CONSPICUOUS EVENT IN ROMAN HISTORY, THE SERVILE WARS.

NOT SINCE HANNIBAL'S* INVASION HAD ROME FELT SUCH FEAR AND HUMILIATION.

IT WAS EASY TO IMAGINE THE PANIC WHICH THIS CAUSED THE RULING CLASS.

* A GENIUS CARTHAGINIAN STRATEGIST. HIS SURPRISE ATTACK ON ROME VIA THE ALPS IS CONSIDERED AMONGST THE GREATEST IN ANCIENT HISTORY.

A NOBLE, THE INSURRECTION WAS SUPRESSED BY HIS HAND ON ORDERS FROM THE SENATE.

MARCUS LICINIUS CRASSUS, ACTING CONSUL.

HOWEVER, A QUESTION AROSE AS TO THE EXECUTION METHOD.

THOSE CAPTURED WERE, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, SENTENCED TO DEATH.

AROUND 60,000 OF THE SLAVES DIED IN THE FINAL BATTLE, INCLUDING SPARTACUS.

HOWEVER, THERE'S WOULD BE A TRAGIC FATE.

THEY WOULD MEET THEIR END WHILE HOMEWARD BOUND, HAVING SUFFERED A TERRIBLE DEFEAT IN THEIR HOLY WAR.

THEY STOOD LIKE A ROW OF TREES, SHOWING OFF A MOST ABERRANT MESSAGE.

THE TREACHEROUS SLAVES WERE CRUCIFIED ALONG THE APPIAN WAY.

THE GRUESOME FORM OF EXECUTION SHOWED NOTHING ELSE BUT THE FEAR WHICH RESIDED IN THE HEARTS OF THE ROMAN ELITE.

ROME'S ECONOMY WAS PROPPED UP BY SLAVERY.

THE REVOLT WAS A GRAVE AFFAIR WHICH HAD SHAKEN THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF THE NATION.

ROME.

FROM ROME TO CAPUA IT'S ROUGHLY 2,000KM.

A LINE OF SOME 6,000 CRUCIFIXES STRETCHED THE LENGTH OF THE ROAD.

CAPUA.

YET SLAVES WERE STILL RUNNING DOWN THE SAME ROAD.

TIME MOVES ON...

YET IT WAS NOW TRAVERSED BY A BOXER WHO COULD DO NOTHING BUT LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

IT WAS A ROAD ON WHICH A FUTURELESS GLADIATOR HAD PERISHED...

GET YOUR THIGHS UP CESTVS!

STRETCH OUT YOUR SPINE HERNANDO!

PEDRO! RAISE YOUR CHIN!

WHAT'S WRONG, ARE YOU WORN OUT ALREADY?!

GETTY!

KEEP A STEADY PACE!

KEEP ON GOING, DON'T GIVE UP!

YOU'RE FINE JUST STAYING AT THAT SPEED!

ドス ドス

ハァ ハァ ハァ

ドタ ドタ ドタ

ジャラ ジャラ

I WANT YOU TO LOOK AFTER THESE THREE.

ZAFAR.

I WANT YOU TO SHOW ME YOUR SKILL AS A COACH.

DO YOUR BEST TO TRAIN AND TOUGHEN THEM UP.

ALONGSIDE THE YOUNG MISS THERE'LL BE FOUR IN YOUR CARE.

I SEE, THEY'VE ALL GOT THE SAME, GLOOMY STARE TO THEM...

TCH.

...

SO HE'S LOOKING TO GIVE UP AND ABANDON THIS LOT EH...

...

IF YOU DON'T, I'LL CHUCK YOU OUT ALONGSIDE THEM.

TAKE DEEP BREATHS. CALM DOWN AND YOUR MUSCLES WILL LOOSEN UP.

FOR THE TIME BEING WE'LL JUST HAVE YOU RUN...

THE FOUNDATIONS OF YOUR STRENGTH WILL COME FROM ENDURANCE RUNNING AND PROPER BREATHING.

HOW OLD ARE YOU GUYS PEDRO...?

WHAT HAVE YOU FOUGHT, WHAT HAVE YOU LOST TO...

JUST WHEN, WHERE AND HOW HAVE YOU FAILED?

HOW MUCH EFFORT HAVE YOU MADE TILL NOW TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR SURROUNDINGS?

THE CHIEF'S JUST STUCK YOU WITH US LEFTOVERS.

MASTER ZAFAR...

YOU ENDED UP PULLING A PRETTY BAD LOT DIDN'T YOU.

I FIGURED THAT WAS SO... AGES BACK BUT...

DON'T TALK NONSENSE WITH ME!

YOU'RE ONLY 15. YOU'RE NO BETTER OFF THAN SIX YEAR OLDS!

DO YOU THINK I INTEND TO LET SOME NO GOOD KIDS SET ME BACK?!

HEAR ME WELL BOYS!

I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO GIVE UP WITHOUT TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE!

OPEN UP YOUR EYES AND TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT WHAT'S BEFORE YOU!

MUSTER ALL OF YOUR STRENGTH HERE...

DON'T BE MOODY, DON'T BE JEALOUS.

TAKE YOUR CURRENT SELF TO THE HIGHEST PEAK YOU CAN!

DON'T RUN AWAY, DON'T TRY AND CHEAT.

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE OTHERS TO CONTEND WITH AHEAD OF YOU!

UNDERSTAND...

THIS IS THE STARTING POINT!

IS ALL DEPENDENT ON YOUR EFFORT HERE ON AFTER.

WHETHER IN 10 YEARS YOU'RE LAUGHING, OR CRYING...

TIME IS EQUAL FOR ALL MEN.

THINK IT OVER!

DECIDE HOW YOU'LL MOVE FROM NOW ON!

...

...

I WILL MAKE SURE TO TOUGHEN YOU UP.

...

IT'S A PROMISE...

I WON'T ABANDON ANYONE WHO PUSHES ON WITHOUT GIVING UP ON THEIR OWN AMBITIONS.

MASTER...!

NO ONE AT ALL.

I AIN'T NEVER HAD SOMEONE ACT SO PARENTLY AND ENCOURAGE ME BEFORE...

UNTILL NOW...

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET SOMEONE LIKE THAT...

HE SAID HE'D GIVE US A TALK AFTER GETTING SOME FOOD...

BY THE WAY, WHERE DID MASTER GET TO?

YOU SURE ARE SIMPLE.

PFF.

WH... WHAT'SSS WITH ME?

I FEEL LIKE TRYING FOR ONCE.

EH, WHAT IS IT?

THAT'S, WELL THEY'LL BE OVER THERE...

GETTY AIN'T HERE EITHER.

AAAH.

YOU BLOODY IDIOT, DON'T DROP NONE!

OVER 'ERE TOO, QUICK LIKE!

YES SIR...

AH...

OI. DON'T BE SO SLOW, WHAT'RE YOU A TURTLE?!

HURRY UP AND GET ME SOME WATER!

AAH?!

BASTARD, ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING EHHH?!

EH, YES SIR!

YES SIR.

GIMME A BACK RUB!

OOOI, TURTLE.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU I'D BE GIVING A TALK?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING LAZING AROUND HERE?

MASTER ZAFAR.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

AH.

I'M SORRY.

OI, WAIT YOU!

EH, BUT...

ALRIGHT, COME NOW.

WHAT WAS THAT BASTARD?!

Y'H...

DON'T JUST GO DOING WHAT YOU WANT NEWCOMER!

THAT BRAT'S GOT WORK TO BE DOING!

CAN'T EVEN MANAGE TO DRESS YOURSELVES.

IN WHICH CASE I GUESS YOU'RE JUST BABIES WITH HAIR ON YOUR HEADS?

IF IT'S JUST WORK THEN MY BUSINESS WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE...

UNLESS YOU FILTHY LOT...

THIS ARSEHOLES GOT A HIGH OPINION OF HIMSELF AIN'T HE!

Y'H!

Y'H..

Y'H.

YOU WANNA SWAGGER AROUND LIKE THAT EH!

DON'T IGNORE ME FUCKER!

THOUGH YOU THINK I'D LET YOU WASTE YOUR PRECIOUS TIME FOR SOMETHING AS STUPID AS THIS?!

I'LL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS RIGHT OR WRONG.

IT'S FINE MASTER, I JUST NEED TO PREPARE MYSELF A BIT AND...

BESIDES, YOU'LL NEED TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE TRAINING I'VE GOT INSTORE...

I GUESS IT'S UNAVOID-ABLE!

WE'LL HAVE A PRACTICAL LECTURE TODAY GETTY.

EH?!

URGH!

YOU NEED TO SWING AS HARD AS YOU CAN!

YOU SHOULD FORGET THE RIGID NOTION THAT, TO TAKE SOMEONE DOWN...

IT'S THE OPPORTUNITIES AT WHICH YOU CAN PRECISELY STRIKE!*

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN AN EFFECTIVE PUNCH?

BAST-ARD!

GUUH...

FUCKER, HOW DARE HE!

ﾎﾞﾀﾀﾎﾞﾀ

* THAT IS, TIMING.

THE WAY IN WHICH YOU APPLY THAT REASON IS KNOWN AS TECHNIQUE.

BOXING IS A FIGHTING SKILL BASED UPON REASON.

THOSE WHO SIMPLY RELY ON BRUTE PHYSICAL STRENGTH ARE FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG.

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW, IN BOXING...

THE ESSENCE THEN OF ANY TECHNIQUE IS THUS RATIONALISATION.

ｽﾊﾞｯ!

YOU SHOULD QUICKLY, YET LIGHTLY STRIKE AT YOUR OPPONENT AT CLOSE RANGE IN ORDER TO FORESTALL THEM!

THIS IS YOUR FIRST MOVE.

UNDERSTAND THAT THESE FIRST OPENING MOVES WILL DETERMINE THE FIGHT ITSELF.

BEING ABLE TO MEASURE THE RANGE OF ATTACK ALONGSIDE YOUR INITIAL STRIKE IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

BOXING IS A STRUGGLE FOR SPACE.

HE TOOK OUT THREE AT ONCE!

WITH ONLY ONE HAND?!

STRIKE AT SOMEONE'S CHIN WHILE BOTH YOUR FEET ARE ALIGNED AND, EVEN AT HALF POWER, YOU CAN TAKE THEM DOWN.

YOUR FIRST BLOW SHOULD BE A FAINT, THEN A CLOSE STRIKE.

MASTER!

HE'S FIGHT-ING...?

THAT OLD MAN!

EEEH! THE HELL'S HE THINKING!

HOW ON EARTH DID THIS HAPPEN MASTER...?!

?!

MOVE, MOOOVE!

RADDOCK!

!

FLASH

IF YOU'RE PLAYING AROUND LIKE THIS I FIGURED I HAD TO GET INVOLVED!

WORRIED ARE YOU MASTER?!

OOH, EASY NOW, EASY NOW.

YOU'RE DEFINITELY A SKILLED FIGHTER!

!

I FINALLY REMEMBERED...

WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

WHAT'S SOMEONE LIKE YOU DOING OUT HERE?!

YOU'RE ZAFAR, THE BOXING WOLF!

WHAT WAS THAT...?!

EVEN WHEN I SAW YOUR STRIKE, IT NEVER OCCURED TO ME.

I REALLY AM AN IDIOT!

DAMN IT!

THAT'S ENOUGH!

YOU'RE FELLOW FIST BOXERS, HOW'S THIS GONNA EARN ANY MONEY?!

IF YOU GET HURT, I'LL TAKE A HUGE LOSS!

STOP IT, STOP IT!

WE'RE OFF.

EVERYONE INTO THE WAGON.

WE'LL CONTINUE OUR TALK LATER, MASTER...

DON'T RUN NOW.

THE ROMAN TOWN OF CAPUA.

DRISCO'S SLAVE BOXER TROUPE HAD REACHED THEIR FIRST DESTINATION.

IT WAS A LARGE CITY IN WHICH THE ARENA HAD BEEN MOSTLY SET UP ALREADY.

UNLIKE ROME, THERE HAD EXISTED AN ARENA IN CAPUA SINCE ANCIENT TIMES. INDEED IT WAS A POPULAR PLACE TO TRAIN SLAVES AS GLADIATORS.

AND WAS THE FIRST TO BE CONNECTED TO THE EMPIRE'S VAUNTED ROAD NETWORK.

IT WAS CITY WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN ANNEXED BY THE ROMANS.

IT WAS IN THIS VERY LAND WHERE THE SERVILE WARS HAD BROKEN OUT.

CAPUA BEING THE CITY IN WHICH SPARTACUS HAD RENOUNCED HIS FATE.